

Silicon Times Report

The Original Independent OnLine Magazine
(Since 1987)

Happy New Year!!

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Apple in Bind With Microsoft!
Feds Prowl for Net Scams
Canon Too BIG??

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From the Editor's Desk...

Happy New Year!! For some it will be the Happiest of New Year Celebrations and for others. well, 'Nuff said. The only way we can make sure this will be a Happy New Year is to take every step necessary in making certain no party hounds are permitted to DRINK and DRIVE. Please.. DO NOT DRINK and DRIVE!!

If the party is at your house, set up a "key box" in which everyone puts their car keys for safe keeping. The last party game is going to be deadly serious and will be handled by only those who have enjoyed soft drinks only. They'll be the ones who determine who is or is not suitably capable of operating a vehicle. Make sure everyone agrees to their decision being final and in having themselves driven home either in a cab or in their own vehicle. The arrangements may be a pain. but looking into the eyes of those left behind is far more painful. Especially.. when you know you could have made the difference between life and death.

This is our LAST issue for 1995. Normally I'd be busy putting together a list of the best and the worst of 1995 but the list would be top heavy in the BEST category so. all I'll say is stay away from Canon Hardware Products until such time as they get their ACT together. They are at the bottom of the swill pool when it comes to support and updated 32 bit drivers for their products. From BIOS code to printer drivers and finally their Scanner Drivers. Maybe Canon needs its entire executive corps revamped. Something is deadly wrong at Canon. The others are Arcada Tape Backup (BAD software) and the real pineapple of the bunch SoftRam 95, is best left totally untouched. Leave 'em on the shelf!

All the other Software and hardware Companies are doing the right thing.. Intel is, to an extent. A very large and conclusive extent. Even if they haven't a clue about releasing and supporting PCI Bus Mastering Drivers for their Triton ChipSet. It leaves one to wonder just what they'll do with their Triton II Chipset Support. Time will tell.

Ralph..

Of Special Note:

<http://www.streport.com>

STReport is now ready to offer much more in the way of serving the Networks, Online Services and Internet's vast, fast growing site list and userbase. We now have our very own WEB/NewsGroup/FTP Site and although its in its early stages of construction, do stop by and have a look see. Since We've

received numerous requests to receive STReport from a wide variety of Internet addressees, we were compelled to put together an Internet distribution/mailing list for those who wished to receive STReport on a regular basis, the file is ZIPPED, then UUENCODED. Unfortunately, we've also received a number of opinions that the UUENCODING was a real pain to deal with. So, as of October 01,1995, you'll be able to download STReport directly from our very own SERVER & WEB Site. While there, be sure to join our STR list. In any case, our current Internet mailing list will continue to be used for at least the next eight weeks. Each of our readers will have by then, received their information packet about how they may upgrade their personal STR News Services.

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STReport Headline News

LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

Weekly Happenings in the Computer World

Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Apple in Bind With Microsoft

Apple Computer Inc. apparently is ending the year facing licensing difficulties for Microsoft Corp.'s Windows 95 operating system. Computergram International writes today that Apple finds itself in a bind because Microsoft's "onerous licensing terms ... seem to involve (Apple) signing away its birthright."

The newsletter notes Apple's Windows and MS-DOS licenses expire on Dec.

31, and the company "has been unable to reach any compromise with Microsoft on the clause in the license agreement that would indemnify the latter against any possible infringement of Apple patents." CI observes that even Microsoft foe IBM has somehow found a way to sign, "but Apple must now buy the software for its Windows compatibility boards from third parties and get less favorable terms."

Telecom Bill Compromise Reached

Word from Washington is that Congressional conferees have reached an agreement on a sweeping reform of telecommunications law, a development Vice President Al Gore calls "a victory for the American economy and the American consumer." In a statement, Gore, who has closely followed the measure, said the agreement will prevent media concentration and will provide for fair competition between local and long distance telephone companies. The measure also includes a provision for fitting TV receivers with a "V-chip" that will enable families to block out violent programming.

The Reuter News Service quotes Gore as saying the draft bill - a conference committee had worked to resolve differences in legislation passed earlier by the Senate and the House of Representatives -- will lower prices and increase and improve telecommunications services.

It also will preserve a diversity of television and radio viewpoints and prevent a media concentration that was of concern to the president, Gore said. Reuters says industry sources report a key dispute resolved was "the ground rule to allow the regional telephone companies to enter the long distance business," noting, "The legislation would open long distance business to local telephone companies once the Federal Communications Commission, with advice from the Justice Department, was assured that their business also was open to competition." Sources told Reuters the draft bill will keep the ban on one company owning a television station and newspaper in a single market and owning two television stations in a single market.

Clinton Signs Child Porn Law

President Clinton has signed a bill into law handing tougher punishment to purveyors of child pornography, especially in cyberspace. The Associated Press notes the new law sharply increase penalties for people convicted of an array of child-sex offenses, imposing these increases in sentencing guidelines:

- '• Penalties for people convicted of causing a child to engage in sexually explicit conduct before a camera increases from the range of 57 to 71 months to 70 to 87 months.
- '• Sentences for those convicted of distributing visual depiction's of such activity rises from the range of 18 to 24 months to 24 to 30 months.

And, the wire service notes, the sentencing increases double if a computer is used to transmit child pornography pictures. Penalties also sharply increased for those convicted of transporting a minor in interstate or foreign commerce to engage in prostitution or illegal sexual activity.

Bonds to Speed Ziff-Davis Buyout

Japanese software wholesaler Softbank Corp.'s acquisition of Ziff-Davis Publishing Co.'s computer magazine empire is expected to be speeded up by a new bond issue. Softbank, which originally unveiled the takeover Oct. 19, yesterday announced a \$682 million convertible bond issue to help finance its \$1.8 billion acquisition of ZD, the New York publishing giant that produces PC Magazine, PC Week, MacUser and other major computer periodicals. ZD currently is owned by Forstmann Little Co., an investment company.

Writing from Tokyo for United Press International, reporter Brian Mertens says Softbank hopes the purchase will help it form global publishing operations in the U.S., Europe and promising new markets like China, and analysts say the bond issue should grease the skids. "The strength of stock prices should help the bond market digest this issue," said editor Mas Nishimaki of Dealwatch, an equity and bond research service.

Analyst Richard May at WestLB Securities Pacific Ltd. adds, "This deal will make Softbank a big part of the U.S. and European software scene. ...

Softbank controls half the software market in Japan, but profit margins are higher in publishing, so this looks like a smart move. It's not getting Ziff-Davis on the cheap -- I'd call it an average price -- but parts of this market are doubling each year."

Mertens, quoting industry insiders, concludes the deal stands out because it:

- Is one of the few large Japanese acquisitions in the United States announced this year.

- Represents a new Japanese foray into a foreign media company.

Softbank will finance its purchase by issuing new bonds and tapping \$660 million raised through a new share issue this month. The company is to complete payment to Ziff-Davis shareholders by the end of February next year. "Analysts were not concerned," says Mertens, "the deal would mean most media and trade shows specializing in the PC business would be dominated by a single company."

Feds Prowl for Net Scams

Federal law enforcement authorities are struggling to crack down on scams in the new territory of cyberspace, warning us of bogus get-rich-quick schemes, weight-loss miracles, AIDS cures, credit-repair programs and investment scams. "The scams are the same -- the way you investigate them is different," Lucy Morris, assistant director for credit practices at the Federal Trade Commission, told Roger Fillion of the Reuter News Service.

The FTC is not alone. "Cruising cyberspace as part of their work," says Fillion, "are employees with the FTC, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Department of Transportation, the Secret Service, state attorneys general and state securities regulators."

And there are new problems. Says Reuters, "Cyberspace offers criminals wonderful anonymity and law officers face ambiguous jurisdiction issues due to the global nature of the Internet, raising questions about whether new laws are needed to cope with the new medium."

Some recent cases:

- In July Minnesota sued six companies and individuals, accusing them of fraud and illegal business on the Internet and computer online services. State investigators uncovered the cases while prowling cyberspace.

- In one case a woman advertised the health benefits of a substance known as "germanium," suggesting it would help people with AIDS, cancer and other diseases. Germanium products have been banned because they can cause irreversible kidney damage.

- In another case, a firm offered consumers, in exchange for \$15, tips on how to send first-class letters with two-cent stamps. Four defendants have settled the charges and a fifth case is pending. A sixth defendant could not be found.

"The Internet is really not a different way to commit fraud. It's an opportunity to reach a lot more people," said Gary Sundick, associate director of enforcement at the SEC, responsible for protecting investors against fraud. In its most publicized recent case, settled in a Rhode Island last August, the SEC charged a man used the Internet to try to lure investors to buy bonds in an eel-farm venture. He promised a 20 percent return with very low risk, but failed to disclose that the venture "was not an ongoing business" and that he had "no expertise" in culturing eels, the SEC said. As reported earlier, the SEC closed the operation before investors handed over any money. Sundick advises Internet surfers, "Don't make investment decisions based solely on what you see on a computer screen, or receiving something from somebody you don't know. Get as much information as you can, just as if you're making any investment."

Intel Investing in Phoenix Tech

Intel Corp. is investing \$10.9 million in Phoenix Technologies Ltd., which specializes in software used in PC design and manufacturing, giving the chip giant a 6 percent stake, with an option to add another 7 percent

over the following four years. Reporting from Intel's Santa Clara, Calif., headquarters, United Press International says Phoenix and Intel also have signed a seven-year technology licensing agreement covering circuit boards.

"Intel is expected to pay Phoenix fees and royalties of at least \$20 million, though the revenue under the agreement could be significantly higher depending on shipment volumes," UPI reports. Phoenix also plans to open a new system software development site, to be located adjacent to Intel's board development facilities in Hillsboro, Ore. The new facility will begin operation next month with a staff of 20, largely of engineering and program management professionals. "Intel has agreed that it will not increase its ownership of Phoenix beyond 19.9 percent for two years," UPI adds.

School Pays for Net Punishment

A Washington state school has agreed to pay a \$2,000 settlement to a former student who lost a chance at a National Merit Scholarship because his principal didn't like what he said publicly on the Internet. The Bellevue School District also has agreed to seek to have the student, Paul Kim, reinstated as a National Merit finalist and has apologized for punishing the student. Kim, who had a 3.8 grade average in high school and now is a freshman at Columbia University in New York, told the Associated Press, "This establishes for students and high school administrators that freedom of speech does apply to the Internet."

AP says that earlier this month the school district acknowledged the actions taken against Kim were punitive and that it should have respected Kim's right to free speech even when it disagreed with the speech. School district spokeswoman Ann Oxrieder said, "I think we learned something from this." Last March, while Kim was still a senior at Newport High School in this Seattle suburb, he used his home computer to write a spoof of his school and posted it on his World Wide Web home page on the Net. His "Unofficial Newport High School Home Page" lampooned his classmates as being obsessed with sex and included links to other Internet material with sexually explicit content.

Principal Karin Cathey responded by revoking the school's recommendation of Kim for a National Merit scholarship and for college admissions. Kim did not receive a Merit scholarship. Kathleen Taylor, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Washington, commented, "The district has recognized that the principal had no authority to discipline a student for expressing his opinions on his own time on a home computer." AP says Kim's current home page can be reached at Web address [http://www.cc.columbia.edu/\(tild e\)pkk11/](http://www.cc.columbia.edu/(tild e)pkk11/).

I-Net Technology Awarded Patent

Security Dynamics Technologies Inc. says it has been awarded a patent for a process that's designed to provide fast and secure data transfers on the Internet. The company, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, says its Concrption technology combines data compression and data encryption technologies in a single integrated series of operations. It notes that the process enhances information privacy and data integrity while simultaneously reducing transmission time, CPU overhead and data storage space. When the technology is used with integrated public key encryption, the identity of the sender and recipient can be assured, it adds.

"The technology encompassed by this patent could become important in the information age," says Kenneth Weiss, chairman and chief technical officer at Security Dynamics. "I believe that Concrption is an enabling concept technology which could affect the way that data from various sources, including telecommunications, the Internet and satellites, are communicated in the future."

CompuServe Hits 4 Million Mark

CompuServe Inc. says the worldwide membership of the CompuServe Information Service has surpassed 4 million individuals. The company reports that more than 200,000 new members are joining the service each

month, with local dial-up access now available in more than 140 countries. CompuServe officials are optimistic about prospects in the new year. "New computer owners are realizing the value of the online service and the Internet," says Bob Massey, CompuServe's president and CEO. "A computer that is not connected to cyberspace is like a television without sound and color."

CompuServe notes that the holiday season is one of the biggest times of year for member acquisition in the online industry. This year, more than 3 million people are expected to get new computers. "Our goal is to reach 5 million members next spring, and we will reach that goal," Massey says. CompuServe's announcement comes one day after it announced that it has surpassed 500,000 members in Europe, with 200,000 in the United Kingdom alone.

CompuServe Expands in Europe

CompuServe Inc. reports it has surpassed 500,000 members in Europe and 200,000 members in the United Kingdom. "We plan to more than double this number over the next 12 months," says Martin Turner, product marketing director at CompuServe U.K. "We have been putting the network and customer support infrastructure in place to accommodate the tremendous growth we have already experienced and expect to continue to experience over the next year."

CompuServe says it's continuing to enhance its localized interfaces and to add country and language-specific content. In the U.K., organizations such as the Press Association, Reuters, Automobile Association, Selfridges and Dixons now provide services and sell merchandise through CompuServe. In France, CompuServe has recently added L'Express magazine and France Cinema Multimedia to its local service offering, while in Germany, Spiegel and Bertelsmann are now available.

CompuServe adds that it's pioneering new online technologies such as machine translation capabilities to translate e-mail, forum messages and other documents between English, French, Spanish and German at the member's request. "The European market is growing rapidly, and we plan to continue to expand and enhance our European service," says Turner. "We have an excellent global network, including 440 access points worldwide. CompuServe, more than any other online service, is in the ideal position to take on the challenges and maximize the opportunities of offering a truly global service."

Eliot Stein Begins Net Talk Show

Online entertainment pioneer Eliot Stein, best known for multiple Hollywood features on CompuServe, next Wednesday launches what is said to be the Internet's first live, real-time talk show. Rock legend Johnny Rivers is slated to be the debut guest on the show, called Netchat with Eliot Stein, offered through AudioNet (which is reached at address <http://www.audionet.com> on the Internet's World Wide Web).

The first program is to be broadcast at 6 p.m. Pacific Time on Jan. 3. Rivers will be followed by actor Matt Frewer ("Max Headroom," "Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace") on Jan. 10. Future guests include the cast and crew of "Mystery Science Theater 3000" and comedian/presidential candidate Pat Paulsen.

Stein says in a statement that Netchat will bring celebrities, authors, experts and interesting people on a weekly basis to the Net users worldwide who have the RealAudio software program (downloadable at AudioNet). "They will be able to listen to the interviews on their computer as they take place in real time," the statement adds. "An 800-number will allow them to talk to the guests as well. Interviews will be archived for many weeks afterwards."

In March 1994, Stein created CompuServe's Stein Online (GO STEIN), the first text-based online real-time interactive "talk show." Stein is the longtime editor of Hollywood Hotline (GO HOLLYWOOD) and has been associated with a number of CompuServe forums, including the ShowbizMedia Forum (GO

SHOWBIZ), the American Oldies Diner Forum (GO OLDIES), the TV Zone Forum (GO TVZONE) (see TV Zone) and Talkin' USA Forum (GO TALKUSA).

Delrina Ships Cyberjack 7.0 Internet Client Software for Windows 95
Announces Internet Access Deal with CompuServe
Launches Price Promotion

Editor's Summary

- '• Full integration with Windows 95 (32-bit implementation; OLE-enabled applications; drag and drop; point and click operation) makes it easy to learn and use.
- '• Full Internet suite provides all the tools (not just a browser) one needs for all aspects of the Internet.
- '• Unique Guidebook organizes the Internet, ties sites and tools together, serves as a personal trail guide to get users surfing instantly; wizards help users define other areas of interest.
- '• Unique update feature keeps software current with new Internet developments.
- '• Includes the new WinComm PRO 7.0 for non-Internet data communication needs.
- '• Built-in Norton Anti-Virus detection against online viruses.
- '• Configuration Wizards for easy one-button access to CompuServe's worldwide network and other Internet Service Providers.
- '• Supports SSL standard to ensure credit card confidentiality for online transactions.
- '• Solid and reliable, tested by more than 40,000 users through the online beta program.

TORONTO, ONT - Delrina Group, Symantec Corporation (NASDAQ:SYMC), the world's leading supplier of PC communications software, today shipped its much-awaited Internet client software for Microsoft Windows 95, Delrina Cyberjack 7.0. Today's announcement delivers on Delrina's PC Communications at Your Command vision designed to provide the easiest and richest communications experience available on a PC today. Cyberjack, the first Windows 95 compliant and logo'd Internet suite, lifts the surfing experience on the Internet to unprecedented heights through its Guidebook technology and full complement of Internet tools, which help people get productive on the Internet easily and quickly.

Simultaneous with the product shipment, Delrina is announcing an agreement with CompuServe's Internet and Network Services Divisions to offer one-button Internet access within the Cyberjack package. Additionally, users without an Internet Service Provider (ISP) can take advantage of CompuServe's RAMP (Remote Account Maintenance Protocol) capability and vast dial-up network to automatically register and access the Internet.

Cyberjack enables users to experience the full power of the Internet, by providing full-featured client applications including: a Web browser; USENet News reader; FTP (File Transfer Protocol) file transfer; Internet chatting sessions (IRC - Internet Relay Chat); e-mail via Microsoft Exchange (the built-in e-mail client software in Windows 95); search capabilities with Gopher and Archie; Image and Zip managers with built-in Norton Anti-Virus; and more. The product embraces the Cyberjack Guidebook as its central feature, which enables users to save, sort and categorize Internet sites. Guidebook includes more than 500 pre-listed sites of interest that provide instant access and navigation of the Internet.

"Cyberjack organizes the Internet into a manageable and usable information resource," said Bert Amato, vice president, Delrina Group. It ties together

all of the key services of the Internet -- from Archie to Web -- automatically, providing the kind of seamless operation between the PC and the Net people have been searching for. It's ironic that until now, users must have a note pad by their side to write down cryptic addresses and information. In Cyberjack for example, if you see a Web address in a news group, all you have to do is right click on it and Cyberjack will automatically launch the Web browser and take you there."

"Cyberjack is designed to take off the rough edges in experiencing the Internet," said Chris LeTocq, software analyst with Dataquest of San Jose, Calif. "Cyberjack provides the most complete Windows 95 Internet integration we have seen. The Cyberjack Guidebook technology not only provides new users with a solid jumping off point for the Web, it also provides experienced users with a powerful tool to organize their Internet resources. In addition, both the Guidebook and Cyberjack itself can be updated across the Net. Cyberjack is the next generation of Internet access products."

Keeping Current with Online Updates

Cyberjack includes two unique update capabilities, one for accessing new content for the Guidebook and a second for automatically getting program upgrades and maintenance releases. Delrina maintains a special Guidebook server on the Internet where new sites of interest and hot spots are placed in a remote Guidebook. Users can transparently access the remote Guidebook directly in Cyberjack across the Internet as if the locations were on their local machine. Double-clicking on a location icon launches the appropriate Internet application taking the user there. Users can also drag a location from the remote Guidebook into their own Guidebook or directly onto their Windows 95 Desktop. In addition, Cyberjack includes a menu item that, when selected, automatically checks itself against new features and updates posted by Delrina. The updates occur automatically across the Internet without the user having to download a patch in a separate application.

Connecting to the Internet

Cyberjack makes use of the built-in TCP/IP stack in Windows 95, which makes connecting to the Internet through any ISP very straightforward. To assist first time Internet users, however, Cyberjack includes an install Wizard that helps the user enter the appropriate values and settings for dial-up and/or LAN access.

Included with the standalone version of Cyberjack 7.0 is Delrina WinComm PRO 7.0 for Windows 95, a full-featured, graphically-based, general purpose data communications software package for accessing BBSs (Bulletin Boards Services), host computers through terminal emulation and other non-Internet online services, such as MCI Mail. The product supports the new standards in non-Internet graphical bulletin boards through RIP (Remote Image Processing). It also shares the same built-in components as Cyberjack: Image Manager, which lets people view image files as they are downloaded and then edit and manipulate them; ZIP Manager, which lets users manage compressed files visually; and the "on-the-fly" virus detection through Norton Anti-Virus, which protects users from accidentally downloading files that contain viruses. WinComm PRO also has a new VisualBasic-like scripting language making it easier to customize for any communications task or session.

Introductory Price Promotion

The expected street price of Cyberjack (including WinComm PRO) will be US\$79 (Cdn\$129). Effectively immediately until February 29, 1996, Delrina is providing dealer incentives which should result in Cyberjack being available at an estimated street price of \$49 (Cdn \$69).

Cyberjack requires a 486 computer running Windows 95, with a minimum of 8MB RAM (16MB recommended). Both Cyberjack and WinComm PRO require 24MB disk space for a full installation.

Both Cyberjack and WinComm are also available as part of Delrina CommSuite 95, which also includes WinFax PRO 7.0 (fax, paging and e-mail integration),

and TalkWorks (voice messaging/telephony).

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Delrina Ships CommSuite 95
The Complete Communications Solution for Windows 95
Launches Introductory Price Promotion

Editor's Summary

- '• 32-bit suite offering WinFax PRO 7.0, Cyberjack 7.0, WinComm PRO 7.0, TalkWorks, CommBar
- '• Integrated, full-featured applications for fax, voice messaging, telephony, Internet, data, e-mail, paging notification
- '• Full complement of Internet clients (Web, FTP, IRC, News, Archie, Gopher, Ping, and more)
- '• Maximizes use of Windows 95, OLE 2.0, MAPI, TAPI, Unimodem, Winsock, Drag-n Drop, Plug-n Play
- '• Complete messaging and online communications in the background without interrupting other work
- '• Award-winning technology, Microsoft Office compatible and Windows 95 logo'd
- '• \$99 (Cdn \$129) street price promotion

TORONTO, ONT. The Delrina Group, Symantec Corporation (Nasdaq:SYMC), the world's leading supplier of PC communications software, today announced the immediate availability of its new Delrina CommSuite 95, offering full-featured, integrated applications for fax, voice messaging, telephony, Internet, data, e-mail and paging. Taking full advantage of Windows 95, Delrina CommSuite turns one's PC into a one-stop communications center allowing users to work more productively, carrying out tasks like sending faxes, downloading files or receiving voice messages completely in the background without interrupting other work on their computer. Coincident with the product shipment Delrina announced an introductory price promotion allowing CommSuite 95 to be purchased at an estimated street price of \$99 (Cdn \$129).

"We believe CommSuite 95 provides users with all the power, simplicity, integration and intelligence to communicate from one place+their PC,+ said Bert Amato, vice president, Delrina Group. +If you want to manage any communications from your Windows 95 desktop, CommSuite 95 can be your fax and e-mail repository, your telephone answering service, your source for paging and your personal guide on the Internet."

The new integrated CommSuite 95 delivers value and communications features not presently available from other PC software suppliers,+ said Jack Gold, research program director, Meta Group. +With this release, Delrina is maximizing its technology leadership in PC telephony convergence.+ The beta version of CommSuite 95 was recently recognized by Byte Magazine as a Best of Comdex/Fall finalist in the Communications Category and by Windows Magazine as the best communications program in 1995, with a Win 100 Award. All of the applications in CommSuite 95 are true 32-bit, multi-tasking and multi-threaded programs that deliver faster, more reliable background communications. The new products maximize the use of the powerful common elements in Windows 95, supporting OLE 2.0, MAPI, TAPI, Unimodem, Winsock, Drag +n Drop, and Plug +n Play for easier installation and automatic

configuration of fax modems. The Delrina Suite includes:

- '• WinFax PRO 7.0, the best way to send, receive and manage faxes for Windows 95.
- '• Cyberjack 7.0, the best way to get the full power of the Internet for Windows 95.
- '• WinComm PRO 7.0, the best way to easily go online for Windows 95.
- '• TalkWorks, the WinFax telephony option for voice mail, call discrimination, remote retrieval, and integrated fax-on-demand.
- '• Delrina CommBar, reports real time status of all computer communications.

- '• The combination of Windows 95 and CommSuite 95, defines a new era in PC communications where it will be much easier for people to send and receive information electronically, regardless of whether the message is an image, voice, text, or data,+ said Marc Camm, general manager, Desktop Communications, Delrina Group. And at an estimated street price of \$99, this product is an amazing bargain, even if you only need a fraction of its capabilities.+

Introductory Price Promotion and Upgrades

The expected street price of CommSuite 95 will be US\$129 (Cdn \$159). Effective immediately until February 29, 1996, Delrina is providing dealer incentives which would result in CommSuite 95 being available at an estimated street price of \$99 (Cdn \$129). Current WinFax, WinComm and Communications Suite users can upgrade to CommSuite 95 for \$69.95 (Cdn \$99.95). A 60-day, money-back guarantee is included.

System Requirements

CommSuite 95 requires a 486 computer running Windows 95, with a minimum 8 MB RAM (16 MB recommended), and 50 MB hard drive for a full Suite install. TalkWorks requires a voice-capable modem.

CompuServe is an H&R Block company. Founded in 1955, H&R Block is a diversified services company and the world's leader in tax preparation and online information services. H&R Block Tax Services handled almost one in every seven returns filed with the Internal revenue Service in 1995, serving 17.1 million taxpayers in more than 9,500 offices worldwide. CompuServe operates the most comprehensive online network in the world, providing services to nearly 900 corporate accounts and more than 3.8 million users in more than 140 countries.

Delrina Group of Symantec Corp. designs, develops, markets and supports innovative PC software products and services in the fax, data and voice communications, electronic forms and consumer software markets. Delrina is recognized as the world leader in PC fax and electronic forms software.

Symantec Corp. develops, markets and supports a complete line of application and system software products designed to enhance individual and workgroup productivity as well as manage networked computing environments. The company is headquartered in Cupertino, Calif., and sells its software worldwide. For sales information contact 1-800-441-7234 or (541) 334-6054. Microsoft and Windows are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corp. in the United States and/or other countries.

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STR Mail Call

"...a place for our readers to be heard"

PERHAPS CANON is TOO LARGE?

Since August 24th . when Win95 debuted, Canon has been making funny noises about when they would be releasing their 32 bit Scanner Drivers for both Windows 95 and NT. To date all that's been obvious is their excellent evasive and non-committal actions other than mentioning December 1995 as the time of release. Of course, that is not happening.

More importantly, why is this happening? Especially by Canon?? What is the real problem?? Perhaps someone is able to furnish the answers in a timely fashion. The entire Canon Scanner Userbase, Worldwide has been "stroked" by a few courageous online support folk who've taken an awful verbal beating from every corner of the globe.

Below, we present but two of the calmer posts presented to the online support people. Its been very evident the telephone support lines at Canon are useless with hold times of better than an hour being the norm and not the exception. Is it time that Microsoft stepped in on behalf of all its customers who've invested in both the Canon IX-series Scanners and Windows 95/NT?? Must the entire World's userbase of Canon Scanners DUMP them in favor of Hewlett Packard's Scanners sine they have managed to release their drivers on time??

Maybe its time for Janet Reno & Company to concentrate on the real violator's of the consuming public's trust in both .government ensuring that International CARTELS like Canon do the right thing and. finally get off Microsoft's back. At least Microsoft releases their software in a timely fashion and at the same time provides top notch support. Maybe. just maybe, Microsoft can offer CANON a "wake-up call". After all, Canon is using the Win95 logo on their boxes for the IX-4025 Scanner. But it doesn't offer any support for Windows 95 or NT or any other 32 bit environment than a can of DOGFOOD!

Subject: Canon
From: William C. Gander 72202,577
To: Ralph @ STReport 70007,4454
Date: 10-Dec-95 9:45

>>Canon's execs ain't seen "nuthin" yet if they don't get their collective butts in gear. There is a full
>>complaint being prepared to be sent to the U.S. Departments of Commerce, Justice and State. It'll
>>manage to bring down the "heat" on all the procrastinating foreign corporations doing business in
>>the US. It doesn't matter if they have "domestic cover corporations" setup. They are still not exempt
>>from any US law and regulations domestic and/or foreign relative to doing business in the USA..
>>The fun is about to begin.

Did you know that there is a sticker on the 4025 box that says to send in your registration and get the Win 95 driver free? It does *not* mention when they come out (if they ever do). I was irritated enough at Canon to think about turning this in for false advertising, but instead laid out the \$949 for the ScanJet 4C and forgot about it. Would Canon make a good topic for STReport?

Ralph, I have used this HP 4C scanner as a copier, to create an Echolake photo album, to fax papers out of state, and in conjunction with Corel Photo-Paint. All of this software works great together and Win 95 seems to enjoy it.

Nothing is loaded from config.sys or autoexec.bat.

And Now that I got my desk re-arranged, the 4C fits spacewise. That 4025 would have fit in better, but it just wasn't to be. - Bill

Subject: SCANNER DRIVER TOMORROW! - Msg Number: 71357
From: John Bonnet 75270,3447
To: ALL
Forum: CAN-10 Sec: 04-Image Scanners
Date: 28-Dec-95 21:59

Well, I just visited Library 11, and saw the following message relative to Canon's Image Scanners is still posted:

"There will be a driver with Win '95 support and enhanced features by the end of the year. It will be mailed to all registered users and available on CompuServe."

Thats great! Since December 30 & 31 are not business days, I guess the new driver will be posted TOMORROW!! WOW- what a wait its been. I may stay signed on line for the next 24 hours so I can WATCH it appear in the forum.

Its too bad that Windows 95 caught Cannon so off guard. I guess its the way Microsoft was so hush-hush about the release of W95. By the way Cannon, here are some other headlines you may have missed:

1. We've been to the moon. Not much more than dust and rocks.
2. The Mets won a world series!
3. We elected a peanut farmer, and a movie actor as President.
4. World War II is over.

To anyone who, like myself, "surfs" the forums before purchasing hardware-take heed! When I purchased my Cannon IX3010 from Comp USA this year, it was sitting right next to an IDENTICAL HP machine. They were EXACTLY alike, same specs... everything. But the HP was almost \$100 more expensive. I, being a smart shopper, bought the Cannon. Guess what? Today the people who bought the HP have an image scanner. Those of us who bought the Cannon have a paperweight. Once again, you get what you pay for....

Well, enough complaining- we're all going to get our new, Canon 32bit drivers TOMORROW! YIPPEEEEE!

Come on Canon .the end of the year is HERE NOW. Are you??

A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N-A T T E N T I O N

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EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

TOP STORIES

WWW "Free Speech" Case Settled
Telecom Bill At Year's End
Radio Companies Are Winners In
Telecom Overhaul
Internet/ISDN Synergy
Mass Walk-Out At Lotus?
Flashback: The Technological
Revolution
Free Offer
Compuserve Porn Warning Comes Under
Fire
Cyber Laundering
Microsoft Does About-Face On
Internet Strategy
Netscape Eyes Intranets
AT&T Manager Buyout Offer Is
Largely Ignored
Reinventing America -- Online
Arizona Central
Companies Bypass Ad Agencies In Web
Stampede
Internet Overload
Boston College Chosen For Cable
Modem Trial
Java Cup
Computer Customer Service Still Has
A Way To Go
How Do You Spell Relief?

WWW "FREE SPEECH" CASE SETTLED

The American Civil Liberties Union has settled its case against the Bellevue, Washington, School District, which had been filed on behalf of a student who had created a WWW home page that the School District objected to. On his "Unofficial Newport High School Home Page," the student ridiculed his classmates for their preoccupation with sex and football and provided links to Internet material on oral sex and masturbation; to punish him, the principal withdrew the school's support for his candidacy for a National Merit Scholarship and wrote letters to seven colleges withdrawing endorsement for his applications to enter those institutions. In the out-of-court settlement, the School District apologized to the student, promised to have him reinstated as a National Merit finalist, and agreed to pay him \$2,000 for a potentially lost scholarship. The School District said in its statement that "the district has no right to punish students who, on their own time and with their own resources exercise their right of free speech on the Internet." (New York Times 24 Dec 95 p9)

TELECOM BILL AT YEAR'S END

Some House Republicans, annoyed by White House suggestions that the Congress had capitulated to the Administration's demands, have expressed unhappiness with the agreement negotiated by the House-Senate conference committee. However, it is unclear whether their unhappiness will slow or derail passage of the bill. (New York Times 22 Dec 95 A1) Baby Bells will be happily ringing in the new year -- in last-minute maneuvering Congressional negotiators removed a provision that could have blocked RBOCs from marketing local and long-distance services together, while allowing competitors such as AT&T to do so. (Wall Street Journal 26 Dec 95 A3)

RADIO COMPANIES ARE WINNERS IN TELECOM OVERHAUL

The stocks of radio companies have risen sharply due to anticipated changes in telecommunications regulations that will eliminate a 40-station cap on national ownership of stations by a single company, and increase the number of stations a company can own in a single metropolitan market. A flurry of consolidations in radio companies is now expected. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 22 Dec 95 G6)

INTERNET/ISDN SYNERGY

"ISDN is a sleeping giant that's waking up," says the manager of BellSouth's ISDN business unit, and industry observers are predicting that the integrated services digital network might actually begin generating profits for telcos over the next couple of years. "ISDN will really take off when phone companies start selling ISDN and Internet access together," says a telecommunications strategist for Furman Selz Inc. "The average voice call is five minutes, but people stay online for hours. The phone companies see this as adding up to \$50 to \$80 a month, per ISDN customer, in incremental revenue." (Investor's Business Daily 26 Dec 95 A8)

MASS WALK-OUT AT LOTUS?

One company insider has estimated that come February, Lotus may lose as much as 25% of its work force as employees collect the bonuses promised by Lou Gerstner for staying through December and then bail out. The problem, according to long-time IBM watchers, is that Gerstner has been unsuccessful in his attempts to jump-start the sluggish giant: "They've put on a new head, but have not changed the body. That body can resist anything," says a Lotus employee. (Upside Jan 96 p46)

CompuServe PORN WARNING COMES UNDER FIRE

CompuServe has begun contacting third party content providers, notifying them that it's posted a warning to users regarding 10 or so online areas that contain nude photographs. The move comes on the heels of Congressional efforts to make provision of "indecent" content punishable by a two-year jail term and \$100,000 fine. CompuServe's strategy, however, has been criticized by users: "The posting of this warning is a ridiculously lame, ineffective Band-Aid. To some kids who see it, it would be like dangling a carrot in front of them." (Wall Street Journal 22 Dec 95 B11) Meanwhile, CompuServe says its worldwide membership has surpassed 4 million subscribers, and that more than 200,000 new members are joining each month. There are now more than 500,000 members in Europe. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 23 Dec 95 D3)

CYBER LAUNDERING

Stanley Morris, head of the U.S. Treasury Department's financial crimes enforcement network, has some fears about the coming of "cybercash": "The nightmare of it is that there is no registration of every transaction, the way there is if you use a Visa or MasterCard. That's the drug kingpin of the future: the guy walking around with a chip in his pocket worth a few million." (New York Times 24 Dec 95 p4)

MICROSOFT DOES ABOUT-FACE ON INTERNET STRATEGY

The Microsoft Network has abandoned its original strategy to keep its service proprietary, available only to Windows 95 users; earlier this month chairman Bill Gates announced that next year, MSN would be available to all 11 million or so users of the Internet. "Most of the online services are already looking at the Internet the way we are," says MSN's marketing

director, but "for the currently successful and larger online services, it's harder for them to make the jump." The change in strategy leaves Microsoft with the task of developing new online revenue sources, which probably will depend on charging fees for "exclusive" content. "Content is the ultimate business," says Gates. (Business Week 25 Dec-1 Jan 96 p41)

NETSCAPE EYES INTRANETS

Netscape Communications Corp. has lined up four systems integration companies to help it tackle the Intranet market -- internal corporate Internet systems. The companies are Andersen Consulting, EDS, Claremont Technology Group and Fujitsu-owned ICL. "A lot of what is going on today with HTTP servers is inside the company firewalls, and the integrators expand our reach into that market," says Netscape's VP of channel management. (Information Week 25 Dec 95 p24)

AT&T MANAGER BUYOUT OFFER IS LARGELY IGNORED

AT&T's buyout offer to almost half of its 151,000 managers has been accepted by only 2.2% of those eligible, apparently because it is not lucrative enough. The offer, which is scheduled to expire this week, was designed to assist the company's split into three separate companies and its attempt to reduce expenses. (Atlanta Journal-Constitution 23 Dec 95 D3)

REINVENTING AMERICA -- ONLINE

The Markle Foundation is sponsoring a multiplayer online Reinventing America game, which offers players the chance to try their own hand at balancing the federal budget. Over the next six months, players will be presented with one key issue per week, which they must incorporate into their spending priorities. At the end of the six months, the results will be sent to government leaders in Washington. <<http://www.pathfinder.com/reinventing> > (Investor's Business Daily 26 Dec 95 A8)

ARIZONA CENTRAL

Phoenix Newspapers Inc., publishers of The Arizona Republic and The Phoenix Gazette, has launched its online service ("Arizona Central") simultaneously on AOL and the World Wide Web < <http://www.azcentral.com/> > because there's a different audience for each platform. Online plans include an archive of the print publications, a small business area, classified advertising, and online partnerships with other media. (Arizona Republic 17 Dec 95 A1-6)

CYBER CULTURE

Some of the books drawing Christmas shoppers' attention include ones on "cyber culture" -- such as Sherry Turkle's "Life on the Screen" about how the Net is changing the way we look at ourselves and interact with others; and "NetWorld" -- David H. Rothman's look at people "who have found fun, love and livelihoods online." (USA Today 21 Dec 95 6D)

FLASHBACK: THE TECHNOLOGICAL REVOLUTION

The December 18th edition of Digital Media magazine points to the Web site of The Atlantic Monthly and says "This compilation of articles by MIT intellectuals Vannevar Bush and Martin Greenberger are harbingers of the networked infoculture of today, written respectively in 1945 and 1964. Bush, a former MIT president and government war researcher, called for efforts and progress in information access that resemble current hypertext, while Greenberger, a computer scientist, uses Bush's proposals to outline the new market possibilities for information services, online commerce and community. These gems from the past are a testament to The Atlantic's commitment to the significance of ideas at <<http://www2.theAtlantic.com/atlantic/atlweb/flashbks/computer/tech.htm>> (Digital Media 18 Dec 95 p27).

In the article he wrote more than three decades ago, Greenberger made the visionary prediction: "Barring unforeseen obstacles, an on-line interactive computer service, provided commercially by an information utility, may be as commonplace by 2000 AD as telephone service is today. By 2000 AD man should have a much better comprehension of himself and his system, not because he will be innately any smarter than he is today, but because he will have learned to use imaginatively the most powerful amplifier of intelligence yet

devised." An in-depth interview with Martin Greenberger will be featured in the March/April issue of Educom Review.

FREE OFFER

We'll mail FREE COPIES of the March/April issue of Educom Review to the FIRST ONE THOUSAND persons who e-mail their snailmail addresses to: crenker@zilker.net. (Sorry; this offer can be made only to addresses in the U.S. or Canada.) ... You might also want to start the year off right by getting your own subscription -- so you won't miss such fascinating features as a two-part interview with Internet pioneer Vinton Cerf, beginning in the May/June issue!

COMPANIES BYPASS AD AGENCIES IN WEB STAMPEDE

As the Web's population swells to 13.8 million by 1996, Forrester Research points out that the bigger numbers aren't translating to bigger income for advertising agencies. Fifty-one percent of brand managers who'd set up a Web site said they implemented their strategies without the help of an ad agency. (Investor's Business Daily 27 Dec 95 A6) Stepping in to fill the gap are an increasing number of start-up cyberagencies, which have managed to usurp the advisory and implementation role traditionally played by the ad agency with regard to conventional media. Full-service agencies say they'll get their chance when the client seeks to integrate its Web site into its mainstream marketing activities: "When you marry the technical expertise with the knowledge of and essence of the brand, that's when the magic is going to happen," says an advertising VP. (Wall Street Journal 27 Dec 95 p17)

INTERNET OVERLOAD

Andrew Seybold, editor of "Outlook on Communications and Computing," sees increasing gridlock on the Internet: "I believe the Internet network will crash and burn, and from it will emerge the information highway, though I don't know what the access route will be... I used to be able to get to an Internet site, grab what I wanted and be off in five minutes. It now takes a half-hour. Forwarding mail, which used to take 10 minutes, now takes six hours. People are pushing more video and graphic material over the Internet. This requires high bandwidth, and there's a finite amount of bandwidth on any network. I believe the Internet is very close to where the phone companies are on Mother's Day. They can just barely tolerate the traffic." (Investor's Business Daily 28 Dec 95 A8)

BOSTON COLLEGE CHOSEN FOR CABLE MODEM TRIAL

Continental Cablevision is testing out its lightning-fast cable modems in more than 6,600 dorm rooms, 2,500 classrooms and 400 offices on the campus of Boston College. So far, the results show that faster is better - usage has shot up since the modems were installed. One convert explains it this way: "Not dialing, always connected, and it's astronomically faster." Students' e-mail now includes photos, and student-designed Web sites are commonplace. Meanwhile, Forrester Research predicts that by the year 2000, there will be seven million cable modem customers, yielding \$1.3 billion in new revenues for the cable industry. (Wall Street Journal 27 Dec 95 p13)

JAVA CUP

The Java Cup International will award more than \$1-million worth of prizes to winners of the contest to design the "killer app" for HotJava. For more information, check out < <http://javacontest.sun.com> >. (T.H.E. Journal Dec 95 p26)

COMPUTER CUSTOMER SERVICE STILL HAS A WAY TO GO

Consumer Reports says its computer-savvy readers are not too happy with the way they're treated by computer companies' help desks. Only 40% were "completely" or "very" satisfied with the manufacturer's technical support -- "one of the lowest satisfaction levels we've ever measured for a service." Thirty-eight percent said they were kept on hold for "an unreasonable amount of time" and 14% said the support staff did not seem knowledgeable. Thirty-four percent had at least one problem that had not been solved. (Consumer Reports Jan 96 p8)

HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?

Pacific Bell has a new service for companies that want to offload their data network management functions. PacBell and Network Recovery Services Inc. will provide contingency planning for maintaining communications during disasters, online network monitoring that notifies clients of system breakdowns, and network backup and data storage. (Investor's Business Daily 28 Dec 95 A8)

Edupage is written by John Gehl (gehl@educom.edu) & Suzanne Douglas (douglas@educom.edu).

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE

The CAUSE organization's annual conference on information technology in higher education is scheduled for the end of this month in New Orleans. The conference will bring together administrators, academicians and other managers of information resources. For full conference information check out <<http://cause-www.colorado.edu>> or send e-mail to conf@cause.colorado.edu.

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Kids Computing Corner
Frank Sereno, Editor

Adi's Comprehensive Learning System
Windows CD-ROM
for grades 2 through 5
from Sierra On-Line, Inc.
3380 146th Place SE
Suite 300
Bellevue, WA 98007

Program Requirements

CPU: 486/33MHz
RAM: 8 MB
OS: Windows 3.1
Video: 640 x 480, 256 colors
Hdisk: Yes
CD-ROM: Double-speed recommended
Misc.: Sound card, mouse; printer

optional

by Frank Sereno

Adi's Comprehensive Learning System is the most ambitious educational software that I have seen. Its six software packages teach English, mathematics and science to children in grades two through five in an entertaining and comprehensive manner. Quizzes are balanced with fun games to prevent boredom. Extensive audible help and a thorough visual reference guide ensure that your child will learn the many important lessons of each Adi's curriculum.

The series of programs is hosted by Adi, a friendly extraterrestrial. He lives in a fascinating classroom filled with interesting objects. Adi encourages your child to click around the room to explore this environment. Various objects in the room are linked to humorous animations or amusing activities. On the bottom of the screen is a row of eight icons. The left four icons are for the program's key features: Learning Lab, Games Gallery, Creativity Toolbox and Theater Lab. The right four icons are for the general features of the program: Help, Backwards, Forwards and Quit.

The most important key feature is the Learning Lab. Here is where children will learn the many lessons of the comprehensive and well-researched curriculum. Each subject is broken down into several study areas and then those are broken down into topics. Each topic has five study questions and if three are answered correctly, the student will earn twenty points toward playing games and be congratulated on knowing the subject matter. All questions are multiple choice. A correct answer is rewarded with an animation while incorrect answers beget an explanation of the correct answer. Feedback for correct responses and progress is positive and enthusiastic while feedback for incorrect responses is informative and encouraging.

The Learning Lab features four icons. A speaker icon is the Audio Playback Button and causes Adi to repeat his last question or instruction. The question mark icon is the Help Button, which leads to a screen displaying an example of the student's current problem. From that screen he

can use the Toolbox to access his Notepad and Calculator, view Edumations (animated educational clips) through the Theater Lab, find related subject matter in the Hypertext Glossary or view a personal Progress Report. These features make learning an easy and rich experience. Back to the main Learning Lab screen, a thumb's up icon is used to indicate when the student has finalized his response. The door icon is the exit back to Adi's homeroom.

The amount of research and effort made to develop the curriculum for this product is very evident. The subject matter is covered completely. Each package contains thousands of questions which teach children math, reading and science skills. Adi's also contains lessons on time management and study skills which are essential tools for a lifetime in today's hectic business world.

Of course, all work and no play make for a bored child. When the student gains enough points, he can then play the included games. Some games are educational, such as checkers or Code Breaker. Others are simply fun, such as pinball. Sierra also includes a several older games such as EcoQuest: The Search for Cetus, Goblins I and II, Lost Secret of the Rainforest and Spelling Blizzard. All games are not included with each package, but this shows the variety of entertaining and educational diversions that Sierra provides with Adi's Comprehensive Learning System.

Besides the games, Adi's includes other activities for your child's education and recreation. Clicking on the Toolbox icon, the student is given the option of using several tools. A notepad and calculator are available. A passworded diary is available also. Perhaps the most interesting tool is the Paintbox. Here a child can learn to make pictures, animations and multimedia presentations. This program is very complex but it is explained in detail in the user's manual.

The final key feature of Adi's is the Theater. Here your child can view many interesting multimedia clips on topics ranging from endangered species to stargazing. It even includes a simple world atlas which includes information about population and industry for each continent. This information isn't extensive, but it is a nice added bonus.

The sound and graphics portions of these packages are topnotch. Sierra has gained a first-rate reputation as an animator and this program adds to that reputation. Each animation is smooth and lifelike. Vibrant colors are used throughout. The sounds are exceptionally clear and distinct. The voice characterizations are very professionally done and are acted with enthusiasm and style. Sound effects are sprinkled liberally throughout the program. The music will never win any Grammys, but it is entertaining.

Adi's features an excellent interface. It is very easy to use. The audible help is outstanding and is available in every section of the program. The user manual is immense, but it contains information for all six programs in the series and is filled with detailed information on every exercise, feature and game that is available. It is lacking in troubleshooting information. Assistance is available by phone, fax and e-mail.

This product has great play value. Some games are among the best educational software titles of their time. For example, I reviewed EcoQuest: The Search for Cetus about eighteen months ago. I was very pleased with the program's quality. These games are of great variety so every child should find several that he will enjoy and play repeatedly.

Enough cannot be written about the scope of the educational content of this product. Sierra spent thousands of hours working with educators to build a consensus of the proper curriculum for each grade group for each subject. While these programs are intended as summer study aids, they are nearly complete enough for a full home study course. The value is phenomenal.

Adi's Comprehensive Learning System is the most thorough and unique educational title I have yet to review. Each title covers two years' worth of study on its subject matter. The titles are reasonably price with a cost of \$50 at most retailers. The series is backed by a thirty-day moneyback guarantee so financial risk is small. I just cannot think of another educational title that has this much breadth of learning and fun. Sierra has definitely produced another winner.

Ratings

Graphics	9.5
Sounds	9.5
Interface	9.5
Play Value	10.0
Educational Value ..	10.0
Bang for the Buck ..	10.0
Average	9.75

Encarta 96 World Atlas
CD-ROM for Windows 95
for ages 10 and up
approximate retail \$40
Microsoft
One Microsoft Way
Redmond, WA 98052
<http://www.microsoft.com/ewa>

Program Requirements

IBM	
CPU:	486DX/33
RAM:	8 MB
OS:	Windows 95 or NT 3.51
Video:	640 by 480 with 256 colors
Hdisk:	7 MB for program files, up to 24 MB for temporary files
CD-ROM:	Double-speed or faster
Misc.:	Sound card and mouse required, printer optional

by Frank Sereno

The Encarta 96 World Atlas is an entertaining reference to the people, cultures and places of the world. Click on any location in the world and you will instantly be transported there to see the sights and sounds. Thirty-one family portraits allow you to experience life in many places and helps to make world exploration all the more personal.

World Atlas is an extremely resource-hungry program. It absolutely must have 8 MB of ram and plenty of free hard drive space for temporary files and

the Windows swapfile. If your system isn't fully optimized for Win95, EWA probably will not run on it. At least I could not get it to run on a 16-MB Pentium-100MHz system with over 100 MB free on my hard drive. I can't find the necessary drivers for the onboard Intel EIDE controllers to run in 32-bit file mode, although the error message was always that I didn't have enough free resources. I did get it to run on a 486DX/80, but it did run a bit slowly.

EWA features Cosmo, an animated globe who acts as your guide through the program. He offers on-line help in text boxes. The help text includes multiple buttons to seek assistance over several related topics. If you ignore the program, he will do various antics to attract your attention back to the program. The program could have been greatly enhanced for younger users if Cosmo's help had been available as audio also.

Since this program shares the Encarta name, you can be assured that it is an extensive reference source. It is full of interesting information and facts in text, graphics and sound which can be copied to the Windows Clipboard for use in most word processors. To enhance the program's value to students, Cosmo even has a help section on writing reports. He also cautions students against plagiarism.

The program's interface is very similar to a Web browser. The text contains links to maps, graphics, sound bits or even more text. Searches for information can be done by choosing available topics or typing in a keyword. A "Go Back" button is available so the user can retrace his steps to previous locations within the program. A locator globe allows the user to quickly move to various locations while a magnifying compass allows him to make fine movements while also controlling zooming in and out from the planet's surface. In fact, the Web browser analogy is very fitting because Microsoft maintains a demo of EWA on the World Wide Web at <http://www.microsoft.com/ewa/>

The program does have a few drawbacks. Besides its need for resources and lack of audible help, it could use more audio features. The program would benefit from having background music or ambient noise from geographic locations while exploring because most of the time the program is silent. The audio included is quite excellent. Another feature that would have been helpful would have been the ability to place the statistical information into charts and graphs. One can compare the number of camels, automobiles, etc., between countries, but that information cannot be reproduced into exportable charts.

Esoteric features such as satellite maps provide for a rich learning experience. The family portraits and world music features help round out this entertaining package, giving it a uniquely human touch. This program has so many features that it is impossible to list them all. The wealth of information available is astonishing and fascinating. This program is interesting for both children and adults, and it is definitely an excellent addition to your reference library. Encarta96 World Atlas is backed by a 30-day money-back guarantee.

Ratings

Graphics	9.0
Sounds	8.5
Interface	8.5
Educational Value ..	9.5
Bang for the Buck ..	9.0
Average	8.9

Student Writing & Research Center
CD-ROM for Windows

The Learning Company
6493 Kaiser Drive
Fremont, CA 94555
800 852-2255

Requirements:

CPU: 486/33 MHz or better
CD-ROM: Double speed drive
Operating System: Windows 3.1 or higher (including Windows 95), DOS 3.1 or higher
RAM: 8 MB
Monitor: 256-color SVGA
Hard drive: 20 MB free
Sound: Windows compatible sound card

by Angelo Marasco

Student Writing & Research Center with Compton's Concise Encyclopedia by The Learning Company is a very serious piece of software for older children and adults. I found it to be a very useful program during my review. In fact, it turned out to be so comfortable and useful that I ended up using it to write this review.

The Learning Company markets Student Writing Center on its own but has chosen to team this excellent program with Compton's Concise Encyclopedia to make a fairly complete research package. I was immediately impressed by the amount of information that they packed onto one CD. I was also impressed with the quality of the encyclopedia, although I did have a little trouble adjusting to the interface, being a Microsoft Encarta user myself.

To keep this review down to a manageable size, I'm going to assume that you, the readers, are familiar with the standard word processor and its controls. I'll try to cover the "unusual" features without boring you with details about standard features. With that, let's go through the Student Writing Center word processor first and leave the encyclopedia until later.

The Student Writing Center opens with a screen which allows the user to choose either to open an existing document or to create one of five different types of documents: report, newsletter, journal, letter or sign. I really thought that this was a great selection and the creative juices immediately began flowing. I write a newsletter and do publicity for an organization to which I belong. I also do much letter writing and these reviews. It has always been a challenge to find the right tools to do these different types of functions. What a delight it was to find these things all rolled into one program!

The menu bar changes slightly for each type of document. There is also a colorful tool bar with large buttons and icons on each button. The tool bar features the most commonly used tools and changes slightly with each

document. One button in particular changes for every type of document. In letter, newsletter and sign functions this button serves as the "Layout" button. Click it and you are immediately able to change the layout of the document. In the report function, this button becomes the "Bibliography" button, allowing the user to add bibliography entries. In the journal function this button serves as the "Password" button, allowing the user to put password protection on the journal, or to change the current password.

What's really neat about this program is the "Tips" button. It gives writing, grammar and style suggestions which are customized to the type of document the user is working on. For instance, in the sign function, the tips button gives hints on how to create a sign, award certificate or greeting card. In the report function the user receives tips on creating an essay, classroom report, research paper, book report or short story. There are other interesting tips for the other functions as well. Under the "Tools" selection in the menu bar are additional selections for grammar tips and writing tips. I thought that it was unfortunate that these tips were not easily accessible under the tips button. It's great that these types of helpers are available and The Learning Company should have made them more obvious.

When writing a document, the ruler bar shows the tab stops and gives the user a selection of four types of tab stops: left, center, right and decimal. The best feature of the ruler bar is the "bullet" button which allows simple insertion of bullets.

In the report mode, the bibliography button gives the writer the opportunity to create different types of bibliography entries for different types of sources: book, general reference, periodical and audio/visual. After selecting the type of source, the writer is given a selection of several types of entries that can be created. From this point the writer need only answer the questions presented about title, author, publisher, etc. The program then creates the bibliography entry based on this information. Where were tools like this when I was writing research papers in school?

The newsletter mode opens with a choice of layouts. These layouts include the number of columns, choice of masthead or no masthead and lines around and between columns and masthead. The controls are all the same in the newsletter mode as they are in the letter mode.

For me, the journal mode is one of the most interesting. For the past nine years I have tried my best to keep a journal. Being on paper, it gets lost often, and now I have several notebooks full of entries collecting dust in my closet. An electronic journal was something I've considered but had never found an adequate program. Student Writing & Research Center includes an excellent electronic journal.

The journal allows password protection to keep prying brothers and sisters out of a personal journal. The tool bar shows the date and allows scrolling through dates to make modifications to entries or to review entries. A calendar button brings up a full month calendar which allows the writer to jump to any date. Dates with journal entries in them are marked to allow the user to quickly jump to different entries without having to scroll through empty days. A search button allows the user to search for a specific word or phrase. It also allows the user to search through the current entry, all journal entries or limit the search to a specific period. I thought that the journal function was full of useful features.

The sign function opens by asking for the user to choose a sign layout,

which included portrait or landscape orientation and a selection of thirteen different borders. I liked the fact that the sign function can be used to make greeting cards and award certificates. Both can be custom designed with the clip art which is included with the program.

The clip art which is included with the program is varied and interesting, although a bit limited in number. I was pleased to see so much clip art available with the program since the word processor I use currently has very little clip art. These pictures can be used in any of the functions, which made them much more valuable to me. On top of this, there are also eighteen different letterheads available. These letterheads are used in the letter function to make letters look like they have been printed on customized stationery. The text in the letterheads can be customized. Some included areas for name and address or "From the desk of...." text headers.

The clip art pictures included with the program were in WMF (Windows Metafile) format. I was pleased with the fact that the program also allows for inserting BMP and PCX format pictures. Since I use BMP graphics for my other work, this enables me to do this writing in the Student Writing & Research Center also.

Overall, I found the Student Writing Center to be a very valuable and useful tool. My 12-year-old daughter was excited by its versatility and was very comfortable with its straightforward interface. She didn't have to ask me very many questions to use it to write a science report she was working on while I was reviewing the program.

One of the best features of this software is the ability to do research in Compton's Concise Encyclopedia. At the click of the "Research" button, the user has access to the encyclopedia. It was a challenge for my 4MB machine to get past the opening screen of Compton's Concise Encyclopedia since Student Writing & Research Center is meant to be run on 8 MB. However, I thought that the wait was worth it. What I found was a very good multimedia encyclopedia which rivals my regular encyclopedia, Microsoft Encarta.

One feature of Compton's is a series of three buttons on the bottom of the screen: Explain, Backtrack and Exit. The last two are obvious. The one that tickled my fancy was the "Explain" button. Click on it and the encyclopedia will bring up a help cursor. Move the help cursor over any item needing explanation and click on it. Then a screen pops up which explains that feature. I like the user-friendliness.

The menu bar runs down the left-hand side of the screen. It features ten different menu choices: Menu, Student Writing Center, Encyclopedia, Multimedia, Idea Search Encyclopedia, Idea Search Multimedia, Topic Tree, Dictionary and Thesaurus, Atlas and Timeline.

"Menu" opens a new menu bar. From here the user can access on-line help, create or use a bookmark list, embark on a picture tour, refer to their research history, change the set up for the program or see the list of credits for the program. "Picture Tour" allows the user to watch a random "slide show" of the pictures contained in the encyclopedia. The user can choose a full tour or choose one of several tours limited to pictures from specific topic areas. This is a good, random way of browsing through the information contained in the encyclopedia. The tour can be stopped at any point and the user can then pull up the corresponding article. I like to browse occasionally and the picture tour suited me.

"Research History" allows the user to see a listing of the areas they have been through on their search for information. The research history lists all the types of information accessed, including forays into the dictionary/thesaurus and sound clips and movies.

Returning to the main menu bar, "Student Writing Center" allows the user to immediately call up the Student Writing Center.

"Encyclopedia" brings up a list of all the topics in the encyclopedia. A text bar at the top allows the user to type in the first few letters of the topic they are searching for. The encyclopedia then narrows the search. The article can then be brought up by clicking on the "Get Item" button or simply by double clicking on the item.

I found the articles to be well written and was pleased to find a lot of multimedia links in many articles. Many articles also had time line links to place their subjects in context with current events. I'll cover the time line a little later.

"Multimedia" brings up a list of all the multimedia items available in the encyclopedia. These include pictures, movies, sounds and tables.

There are many movies available. I wish that many were longer, but I would imagine that it's difficult to pack much more onto one CD. Some titles seemed a little off key for the contents of the movies. For instance, the Space Travel and Exploration movie was all about the Hubble telescope, the problems which plagued it initially and the space shuttle mission to repair it. Why didn't they just name the movie "Hubble Telescope?" On the other hand, the movie on orchestras was long and rich with information. I was very pleased with that one and the movie on World War II.

Some movies used a female narrator's voice which was distorted and slightly difficult to understand at times. There was also a male narrator's voice (one of three or four that I could differentiate) that was slightly distorted. The movie on science stopped a little short, leaving the narrator in the middle of a sentence when it ended. I also felt like some other movies may have been truncated because they ended while the narrator was talking and background music was still playing. This is upsetting in such an expensive piece of software.

Another major shortcoming was in the sounds used for some multimedia items. I was very upset by the fact that Compton's uses MIDI for all the music clips I had time to play back. I love classical music. I was disturbed when I selected a sound clip of a piece by my favorite composer, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and it was played on a very poor electronic imitation of a piano. Rachmaninoff, a great pianist, must be rolling over in his grave! Turning to another favorite, Niccolo Paganini, I was horrified to hear one of his beautiful violin caprices reproduced by a cheesy sounding MIDI version of a violin. It sounded more like one of those cheap plastic electronic organs we used to get for Christmas as kids. Paganini was noted as an extraordinarily gifted violin player. It was insulting to hear his work reproduced so poorly. As if this wasn't bad enough, there were such awful reproductions as jazz great Louis Armstrong done with a cheap MIDI imitation trumpet, supposedly to show the "style" Armstrong used. Give me a break. Would it have been a lot of trouble to use actual sound clips of the music being played? Because of the distorted voices and especially because of the poor musical reproductions in Compton's Encyclopedia, The Student Writing & Research Center took a big hit in my sound rating.

"Idea Search Encyclopedia" and "Idea Search Multimedia" do text searches from user input. Each is useful for searching for obscure types of

things at those times that you have an idea of what you are looking for, but may not know the proper title to use. Each produces a list of articles or multimedia items that relate to the text the user enters.

"Topic Tree" produces menus of items that lead gradually to topics and articles. The opening topic menu is very general, covering nineteen separate topic areas. Double-clicking on one of these topics produces another topic menu that is more specific, and so on, until the user reaches the article. Topic Tree led me to some interesting subjects that I would not normally have accessed. I think that it is an excellent way to browse through the encyclopedia and learn about subjects I might never think about in a normal day. It's a good way for the user to expand their horizons.

"Dictionary/Thesaurus" provides a dictionary that rivals any printed dictionary I've ever used. It gave me all the information I needed about any word I researched. It allows the user to type in the word to search for and goes to that word, and it allows the user to search through a list of all the words contained in the dictionary. The dictionary can also be called up by double-clicking on any word in any encyclopedia article. This produces a definition of that particular word, making the dictionary an extremely valuable tool. The thesaurus is easily called up from the dictionary screen. It provided a wealth of synonyms and antonyms where appropriate. The thesaurus is a valuable addition to an already full-featured dictionary.

"Atlas" calls up the World Atlas screen, which consists of three parts. On the right is a globe which the user clicks with the mouse cursor to rotate to different areas. Click on an area and that area is brought to the center of the screen. The user can then zoom in and out to study the chosen area in detail. I thought that the detail on the globe could be better and that it could show more cities. No topographical information is shown, which is also a major drawback.

In the upper left corner is a flat representation of the world. This map shows two lines, one representing longitude, one latitude. These lines move around as the globe is rotated and areas are chosen. The globe can also be rotated by moving the intersection of the two lines around to different areas of the flat map. This is a really neat feature and can be useful when studying map coordinates.

In the lower left corner is a list of cities, states, countries, rivers and mountains. Double-clicking on the name brings that item to the center of the globe screen. From there the user can zoom in and out to place the item in relation to its surroundings. Unfortunately, the globe does not show the mountains and does a poor job of displaying rivers. For instance, calling up the Mississippi River brings the mouth of the river at the Mississippi Delta into the center. However, the user must zoom in twice before being able to actually see the river. The river at this point, up to the Louisiana/Mississippi border, is shown in blue. From this point up to the point where the Mississippi River separates from the Minnesota/Wisconsin border, the river is not identified at all and is shown only as a white state border line. In Minnesota the river returns to blue but is not even identified! Lake Itasca, the source of the Mississippi is not shown at all. I feel that these are very serious shortcomings in an otherwise excellent tool.

After selecting an item from the list, the user can click on the "Idea Search" button in the atlas menu. The encyclopedia will produce a list of articles containing the selected item. This is a good way of getting information about the points the user locates on the globe and really helps to put these items in perspective.

"Time Line" shows events of particular interest along a time line. The time line begins at 20 billion years ago and continues until May 1995. The user can zoom in or out to view the time line. When zoomed in, the time line shows lists of events of interest at each year, some with pictures and some with links to movies. When chosen, these items display a short synopsis of the event. Some synopses offer links to full articles related to the event. It was really fun to look through some events that have occurred during my lifetime. I think that the kids will have a great time learning with the time line.

When zoomed out, the time line is in "outline view" which shows "eras." Periods of time are separated into different eras highlighting activities, changes and accomplishments. Selecting an era brings up a short explanation of the accomplishments or changes which took place during this period.

Overall, I found Compton's Concise Encyclopedia to be a feature-rich research tool which alone makes an excellent reference work. Teamed with the Student Writing Center it becomes an easily accessed and useful tool. While it is an exciting tool to use, it does have its shortcomings. Some of those shortcomings are big, as with the sounds.

The cost of the Student Writing & Research Center is high, and I wonder if the convenience is worth \$100, but the price is still less than you would pay for some other multimedia encyclopedias alone. If you are planning to buy a multimedia encyclopedia for your children, this package is an excellent option. The Student Writing & Research Center can help your children to become real research pros while allowing them to have fun also.

I found the graphics to be of high quality usually. Some photos were reproduced in low resolution, but for the most part graphics, whether in photos, movies or icons, were excellent. One neat thing about Compton's is the moving icons it uses in the menu bar. Functionally, the movements are totally useless. Visually, the movements are interesting. Sounds took a big rating hit because of the distorted narrators' voices and especially because of the cheap, cheesy MIDI music Compton's Encyclopedia uses to play music clips.

The interface is excellent and easily understood so I gave this aspect a good rating. My twelve-year-old daughter could use the program with little help and that rates well with me. Neither the Student Writing Center nor Compton's Encyclopedia became difficult to look at, even after spending several hours with the program. Compton's Encyclopedia offers many different ways to approach and manipulate the features and materials which should make it comfortable for any type of user.

I really had to debate long and hard with myself about whether or not to give this program a play value rating. After all, as I said at the beginning of this review, this is a very serious piece of software. However, my kids used it to do creative things such as making signs. I expect that eventually they will turn to making greeting cards. Plus, an encyclopedia with multimedia features can quickly become a play area as kids explore the items available and just casually wander and browse. So I gave this software a play value rating.

Educational value in a package as well put together as this has to be high. I feel that Student Writing & Research Center not only aids education, but that it also promotes it by making learning fun and attractive.

Bang for the buck was a tough one to come up with. This is one

expensive piece of software, yet it doesn't cost much more than Microsoft Encarta while also offering an excellent and feature-rich word processor. I felt that Student Writing & Research Center offered enough to rate a decent bang for the buck rating. The only problem I see in this area is the fact that encyclopedias become dated, and they become dated quickly. The package I reviewed had the 1995 edition of Compton's Concise Encyclopedia on it. I hope that The Learning Company has an inexpensive way of keeping this software updated for purchasers. It is tough for the average family to come up with \$100 for a piece of software, and it is hard to justify the purchase if that software will be obsolete in a short time. It will be interesting to see how The Learning Company handles this dilemma.

In closing, I just want to say that Student Writing & Research Center is a worthwhile addition to the software library of anyone with older children. Because it is useful to adults and children, I believe that this program will get plenty of use in any home.

Ratings

Graphics	9.5
Sounds	4.0
Interface	9.5
Play Value	8.0
Educational Value ..	10.0
Bang for the Buck ..	9.0
Average	8.33

Editor's note: Here's a review of a program that will be useful to any parent. Few things can trouble a parent more than when a child is ill. The Mayo Family Health Clinic cannot guarantee the health of you or child, but it does contain extensive information which will help you to recognize illnesses and to deal with accident trauma. No home should be without a medical reference guide, and Mayo Family Health Clinic is simply the best electronic guide available.

Mayo Clinic Family Health 1996 Edition

by Donna Lines

Mayo Clinic Family Health 1996 Edition, Version 2.0 is greatly improved over the original version. The 1996 Edition has been updated to include many new features and the latest up-to-date health information. The information is presented in clear, easy-to-understand language without "talking down" to the non-medical professional user. The interface is more user-friendly, including helpful "greeters" to introduce each feature of the program. After you become familiar with the product, you can turn the video help feature off in the Preferences menu under Video Help Options. There are several new sections including General, Family, Search and Online. The General section provides the latest information available on such topics as Anatomy, Life Cycles, Staying Well, First Aid, Diseases and Disorders, and Modern Medical Care.

Anatomy shows each of the body's main systems, i.e., skin, skeletal, muscular, endocrine, etc. By dragging the green dot on the scroll bar next to the illustration you can fade through several body layers. You can click on "view media" to see a more detailed illustration and hear a sound clip. Click on "go to text" and you'll be given a list of links to related

articles. If there is a short movie clip available, you can click on the film reel icon to view the movie.

Lifecycles is divided into groups of topics by age, providing insights to medical conditions, physical and psychological developmental stages and concerns associated with each age group from the newborn to the elderly.

Staying Well provides valuable tips on staying healthy covering such topics as good nutrition, dealing with stress, and exercise.

First Aid provides easy-to-understand information on common health problems and medical emergencies. There are numerous illustrations to provide guidance to the first responder. The user can become familiar with the information in this section before an emergency occurs and will therefore be better prepared.

Diseases details symptoms, causes, diagnoses, and treatments for nearly one thousand diseases and disorders.

Modern Medical Care covers topics ranging from "Understanding and Using the Health Care System" to "Dealing with Death."

Family is a brand new section with features suggested by survey responses from previous owners of Mayo Clinic. There are several subsections including Personal Profile, Common Questions, Common Symptoms, and Drug Reference.

Personal Profile allows users to maintain complete health records on family members. The user completes several forms covering medical insurance information, immunizations, special conditions, allergies, family history, and more. You can print your personal profile for a handy reference when you're traveling.

Drug Reference contains current information on over four thousand drugs. The user can select a drug and read extensive description of what the drug does and the medical conditions it is commonly prescribed to treat. Also included are precautions while taking the drug, how to take the medicine and possible side effects. Perhaps the best feature of this section is the ability of the user to check for possible drug interactions between various prescription and over-the-counter remedies. For complete information regarding possible drug interactions you should consult with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any new medications, prescription or over-the-counter.

Poison Reference contains valuable information on common poisonous plants and substances found in and around the home. This section will help you to recognize potential poison hazards. It also offers excellent safety advice on prevention, recognizing a poisoning event and treating a poison victim.

Common Questions provides answers to more than 300 of the most often asked questions, sorted by age group.

Common Symptoms prompts the user to answer a short series of questions and based on the responses provides links to information on possible causes and treatments.

The Search section provides much improved search capabilities over the original version. Search allows the user to search on a word or phrase, specific part of the anatomy, or a particular disorder or disease quickly and easily.

Online gives the user one-button access to the Mayo Clinic Home Page - Online Health Network- on the Internet. Using your local Internet service provider and the Netscape Navigator software included you may access Mayo Clinic's home page on the Internet by simply selecting "Online" from the main menu.

I was unable to load Netscape Navigator successfully from the Mayo Clinic CD-ROM. Perhaps you will not experience the same difficulty. I did download and install the program from another source. I was then able to dial up my Internet provider and open Netscape Navigator. Then I could click on the "Online" icon in Mayo Clinic Family Health and be zipped away

to the Online Health Network web site (<http://healthnet.ivi.com/health/>).

The site provides the latest information available on numerous health-related topics. I spent a couple of hours exploring the various features and decided to include the Web site in this review.

From the Home Page you can access Mayo Newsstand, Mayo Special Events, Mayo Library, Product Information, and IVI Customer Service.

In Mayo Newsstand you'll find new topics every week selected from various Mayo publications. There are three features: Hot Topics, Ask the Physician, and the current edition of the "Mayo Clinic Health Letter." Hot Topics has articles under three categories, Pediatrics, Adult and Prevention. Ask the Physician allows users to view other user's questions and Mayo Clinic's staff's responses. You can even submit your own question. Selected questions and answers will be published. Mayo Clinic Health Letter is a monthly publication. (You may also subscribe to the Health Letter, paper copy, via the Product Info. button.)

Mayo Special Events allows you to participate in an on line discussion and read information on

a featured topic. You will need to do a one-time download of the special software (accessed from the Special Events page) to participate in the forums.

Mayo Library is a reference source for a variety of information published by the Mayo Clinic.

IVI Community Center - you'll need to register to access this part of the Web site. Once registered you can participate in discussions on health-related topics on a community bulletin board. You will also find a list of additional sources of information on various ailments.

Overall I found the Web site to be informative and extremely easy to navigate. You'll find yourself visiting this site often to stay abreast of the latest breaking news on the world of medicine.

Program Pluses and Minuses:

First the Pluses:

- '• The program is very user-friendly.
- '• Video Help "Guides" provide information on using the various features
- '• The information is presented in clear, easy-to-understand language.
- '• The illustrations and animations are very well done.
- '• Online one-button link to the Internet Web Site is excellent.
- '• The Web Site is jammed full of the latest medical information and is easy to navigate.

Now the Minuses:

- '• The window is not sizable, and is not full-screen. When you view some illustrations, you must use the scroll bars to view the entire image.
- '• Every time you start the program you have to click on "OK" at the disclaimer screen.
- '• I was unable to Electronically Register using the Icon in the Program Group

I highly recommend this product. You will find it a valuable medical resource that you won't want to be without. From advice on First Aid, dealing with stress, newborn care through health concerns of the elderly, there is information every member of the family can use to help them make informed decisions about their health care.

The Mayo Clinic Family Health 1996 Edition, Version 2.0 is available on CD-ROM, \$79.95 suggested retail, \$24.95 upgrade for owners of version 1.0 directly through IVI publishing.

Contact IVI at 1-800-432-1332.

System Requirements

To access sound, animations, and graphics you will need:

Recommended:

- ˆ• 486SX 25 MHz processor or better
- ˆ• 8 MB of RAM
- ˆ• 8 MB Virtual Memory (Swap File)
- ˆ• Hard Disk with minimum of 10 MB free space
- ˆ• Double Speed CD-ROM drive
- ˆ• SVGA Resolution 640x480 displaying 256 colors
- ˆ• Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later
- ˆ• Microsoft Mouse or pointing device
- ˆ• MS-DOS CD-ROM extensions (MSCDEX version 2.2. or later)
- ˆ• Speakers or Headphones
- ˆ• MPC Level 1 Sound Card (WAV file capable, 8-bit minimum)

Minimum:

This product will run with minimum requirements of a personal computer with 4 MB of RAM and single speed CD-ROM drive.

Atari Jaguar/Computer Section
Dana Jacobson, Editor

From the Atari Editor's Desk

"Saying it like it is!"

Well, Christmas is a few days old now; and 1996 is almost upon us. Where did this year go? I hope that you all had a terrific holiday; that Santa Claus and Hanukkah Harry were good to you all!

It's a really slow time for most people; and it's reflected in the amount of news. It's really a good time to just sit back and reflect over the past year. For me, the best part of 1995, Atari-wise, was that I added an Atari Falcon and a CDRom player to my collection of Atari machines. They have both been a lot of fun to use, and very productive. As the new year unfolds, so will more articles dealing with both pieces of hardware. As I've been mentioning the past few weeks, CDs for the Atari computers are available, and quite good. It's All Relative's Greg Kopchak has been keeping me abreast of what's happening in this regard; and we will be taking a closer look at some of the things that are being offered.

It's hard to believe that I've been heading up STReport's Atari section for a little over two years now. I did a little research, as an end of the year project, just to see what was happening at the time I was taking over this section. The more things change, the more they remain the same. Many of the things I discussed in my debut editorial have come to pass; some of what I had hoped to occur, did not. History has, apparently, repeated itself with regard to Atari. One thing that has changed, for the better, is what has been a good working relationship with Atari. Who would have guessed, a short two years ago, that STReport and Atari would (or could) be working together in an effort to bring you firsthand information? Personally, I always knew it was possible if the right people were able to put aside some differences in philosophy and make an attempt to work together.

Atari's Don Thomas has to take a lot of the credit for what has occurred these past two years. His willingness to work with us has proved invaluable to our readers, and Atari customers. It hasn't been without a few problems and bumps along the way, but Don has always gone out of his way to help as much as possible. For the opportunity to work together, I will always be grateful to Don for his help. I'm looking forward to another year of working with Don in our effort to keep our readership informed of "all

things Atari."

As is usual for us at this time of year, every year, I want to wish all of our readers a very happy and prosperous new year. We hope that 1996 turns out to be a good year for everyone, but especially those of us who are still avid Atari users.

And, please remember to take it easy on New Year's Eve. If you're prone to party, as most of us are, do NOT drink and drive. Be a really good spouse or friend and make sure that there's a sober, designated driver if you plan to be on the road. We really want to see around during the new year.

Until next year, next time...

Jaguar Section

"...not a creature was stirring..."

From the Editor's Controller - Playin' it like it is!

It's been a quiet post-holiday week for us here at STReport, and at Atari. Both myself and most of Atari have been on vacation this past week. I'm looking forward to learning how holiday sales were for the Jaguar, especially after the \$99.00 price tag was implemented.

Online activity has been generating a lot of opinions over the new price tag for the Jaguar. On the negative side, many are speculating that the price drop is the beginning of the end for Atari and Jaguar support. On the positive, many like myself feel that the price reduction is a good thing to generate new sales. My only complaints are that I think Atari dropped the price at least a month too late and the fact that who, other than the online community, knows about the new low price? Holiday advertising, at least what we saw last year, wasn't. I thought that this year there would be a more visible level of media blitz for the Jaguar, but I just didn't see any ads. Last year, I saw plenty of ads. Still, I feel that the new price tag can only help, if Atari makes it known. Yet, however, I have a small degree of cynicism that tells me that Atari will find a way to fall short. As is the norm, we will still have to wait and see how the story unfolds.

Which brings me to my opening editorial, and reflections of one of my early editorials as the Atari editor of STReport, just about the time of the unveiling of the Jaguar. In that editorial, which I have re-printed in part below, I was really anticipating the release of the Jaguar. While I still believe in the premise of that editorial, I think that Atari didn't come close to its expectations, nor ours.

From STReport #948, my fifth editorial:

"So, what's been happening since we last met? Well, Jaguars are finding new homes rapidly these days. Although the new cat was scheduled to go on sale yesterday, it was pretty difficult to keep them caged for too long. Folks in the New York City area are reporting that they have some of these new pets purring along at home. Rumors are flying that some stores in the city were sold out in hours!! The excitement that these new Atari game machines is reminiscent of when the Atari 2600 was first made available; the time when the name "Atari" was a household name. It was a time when the buzz-phrase of the day was "have you played Atari today?" Sheesh, I'm getting a real warm sensation just thinking that Atari will be under many Christmas trees (and Chanukah bushes) this year! It's been a long time coming. I hope that Atari is going to be able to keep up with what I feel is going to be an incredible demand this winter. The Jaguar is one cat that's going to be in a lot of homes the next few months. Plumbers and hedgehogs; they'll be seen in the unemployment lines soon enough!"

Well, Atari did come out with a premier product, and one that I still feel is superior to those at the time of its release and those that are currently available. But, with Atari's poor history of support aided by a poor start with regard to numbers of games, especially quality ones have hurt. Added to this was what many believe to be limited marketing, has really prevented the Jaguar from being the top-of-the-line game console on the market today.

What will 1996 bring? It's anybody's guess at this point. Will Atari still be supporting the Jaguar in this new year? I believe so, but I can't say to what degree. Will Atari's focus change over the new year? Unless sales dramatically take an upward swing, I believe that something will have to give by mid-1996. If things don't improve, I see lingering support for the Jaguar for at least a year, but likely to die out as we saw happen with the Lynx.

What do I think will happen in 1996? I remain the eternal optimist, but with a touch of "guarded realism" in-hand. I'm hoping that the likes of Ted Hoff will help to improve Atari's image and back it up with a comeback. I don't think that the Jaguar will ever be close to taking the place of the giants of the likes of Nintendo, Sony, and Sega; but I do see the Jaguar taking its rightful place in the grand scheme of things if

Atari can play the right cards. It may be too late, but I'd like to think it was possible despite all odds and Atari's history. 1996 should prove to be an interesting year!

Until next time...

Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!

STAR RANGERS PRAISED BY GAME REVIEWERS

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C., Dec. 28 /PRNewswire/ -- Interactive Magic's latest title "Star Rangers" is receiving high marks from game reviewers across the country. Within the last month, "Star Rangers" has received the "game of the month award" from PC Entertainment Magazine, an 89% from Computer Game Review Magazine, an 85% from PC Gamer Magazine and was featured on CNN's "Computer Connection" holiday buying guide.

"Wild Bill Stealey and his development team must be thrilled with the initial reviews of 'Star Rangers,'" said Ernie Slome, President of ABCO Distributors. "Interactive Magic really had the consumer in mind when they designed this exciting new game. If this is a sign of things to come, I can't wait to see I-Magic's lineup for 1996."

(For a free demo of "Star Rangers" for review purposes call Dave Murray or Debbie Blair at 1-800-559-0434 or download from I-Magic's Web Site at www.imagicgames.com).

"Star Rangers" transports players to the 23rd century where they become members of the intergalactic Border Patrol. After warming up in arcade/practice mode, players can fly exciting missions with a wingmen at their side. Challenged with the task of defending their galaxy, players can use a variety of strategies to outsmart invading alien forces.

Developed in the tradition of Atari's(C) award winning "Star Raiders"(R) game, "Star Rangers" is designed to appeal to both new computer owners and experienced gamers alike. The carefully designed practice mode quickly launches players into action, while the campaign mode offers players a wide variety of missions with varying degrees of difficulty.

"Star Rangers" uses state-of-the-art textured graphics that produce an increased sensation of space travel and explosions with incredible detail. Interactive Magic is based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina and is dedicated to developing and publishing high-quality, realtime simulation and strategy games for individual and Internet/Commercial On-Line play.

For more information, contact Dave Murray at Interactive Magic

1-919-461-0722, ext. 3013

Jaguar Cheats, & Hints STR InfoFile - Solving Those Riddles!

Highlander Hint Sheet

Courtesy of Atari's Ted Tahquechi

'• The first hunter in the village keeps killing me.
Try holding the punch or kick button longer. The longer you hold the button, the more of the move Quentin will do. With proper timing, the first hunters can be killed with one kick or two punches.

'• When I go out the front gate, the hunters there keep killing me; what am I doing wrong?
When the game starts, the first hunter that runs after you has the answer. Kill him with a well-timed kick or punch and get the orders that he has. The orders will alert you that there is an ambush at the front gate. You should avoid this area.

'• I have killed the two hunters in the village; and found the back gate, but it's kicked! How do I open the gate?
a. Search the village for the answer.
b. Look in the huts to find a stick. Walk to the gate, and use the stick. You will break the lock and open the gate.

'• Why can't I use the stick as a weapon?
Immortals are only allowed to use swords to dispatch their enemies!

'• In the village, there are hunters in a couple of the huts that keep hitting me and killing me.
Get a weapon before you face these tough hunters.

'• I have searched the entire village and cannot find a sword or any other weapon.
a. Carefully watch the introduction to the game again.
b. A sword can be found on the top of the Hill of Oaths.

'• When I run out the front gate of the village, I can make it past the hunters, but then on the way to the Hill of Oaths, I get killed by a tank.
a. Try going another way.
b. Go through the back gate to the Hill of Oaths. By the time you get to the Hill of Oaths, the tank will have moved elsewhere.
Walkthru of the first area: Dundee Village and Hill of Oaths

1. Kill the first hunter that runs toward you when the game begins. This can be done easily by timing a kick when the hunter is close to Quentin.
2. Get the orders, food, and map from the hunter's dead body.
3. Examine the map and the orders.
4. Explore all of the huts in the village. If there is a hunter inside, exit quickly or you will be hit!
5. Find the food in the huts.
6. Find the stick in the sleeping hut.
7. Kill the hunter at the back gate with a well-timed kick or two punches. Remember, timing is the key to killing the hunters.
8. Go to the back gate, and use the stick. The lock will be broken and

the gate will open.

9. Go through the gate, and then turn right at the guard tower to get to the Hill of Oaths.
10. Watch the full motion video sequence, get the sword, then use it from your inventory. This will place the sword into Quentin's hands.
11. Go back down the stairs and follow the path to the lake. Beware of hiding hunters! Kill the hunters with the sword. The Jab move is very effective against advancing hunters!
12. Walk around the lake to the tank in the distance. Dispatch the hunter there, and walk past the tank to advance to the next level!
Good luck!

Jaguar Catalog STR InfoFile - What's currently available, what's coming out.

Current Available Titles

CAT #	TITLE	MSRP	
DEVELOPER/PUBLISHER			
J9000	Cybermorph	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9006	Evolution:Dino Dudes	\$19.99	Atari Corp.
J9005	Raiden	\$29.99	FABTEK,
Inc/Atari Corp.			
J9001	T McFur/Crescent Galaxy	\$19.99	Atari Corp.
J9010	Tempest 2000	\$39.95	Llamasoft/Atari Corp.
J9028	Wolfenstein 3D	\$29.95	id/Atari Corp.
JA100	Brutal Sports FootBall	\$69.95	Telegames
J9008	Alien vs. Predator	\$69.99	Rebellion/Atari Corp.
J9029	Doom	\$69.99	id/Atari Corp.
J9036	Dragon: Bruce Lee	\$29.99	Atari Corp.
J9003	Club Drive	\$29.99	Atari Corp.
J9007	Checkered Flag	\$19.99	Atari Corp.
J9012	Kasumi Ninja	\$29.99	Atari Corp.
J9042	Zool 2	\$19.99	Atari Corp
J9020	Bubsy	\$19.99	Atari Corp
J9026	Iron Soldier	\$29.99	Atari Corp
J9060	Val D'Isere Skiing	\$39.99	Atari Corp.
	Cannon Fodder	\$49.99	Virgin/C-West
	Syndicate	\$69.99	Ocean
	Troy Aikman Football	\$69.99	Williams
	Theme Park	\$69.99	Ocean
	Sensible Soccer		Telegames
	Double Dragon V	\$59.99	Williams
J9009E	Hover Strike	\$39.99	Atari Corp.
J0144E	Pinball Fantasies	\$59.99	C-West
J9052E	Super Burnout	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9070	White Men Can't Jump	\$49.99	Atari Corp.
	Flashback	\$59.99	U.S. Gold
J9078E	VidGrid (CD)		Atari Corp
J9016E	Blue Lightning (CD)	\$59.99	Atari Corp
J9040	Flip-Out	\$49.99	Atari Corp
J9082	Ultra Vortek	\$69.99	Atari Corp
C3669T	Rayman	\$69.99	Ubi Soft
	Power Drive Rally	\$69.99	TWI
J9101	Pitfall	\$59.99	Atari Corp.

J9086E	Hover Strike (CD)	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9031E	Highlander I (CD)	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9061E	Ruiner Pinball	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Dragon's Lair	\$69.99	Readysoft
J9097E	Missile Command 3D	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9091	Atari Karts	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Supercross 3D	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Fever Pitch Soccer	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	I-War	\$59.99	Atari Corp.

Available Soon

CAT #	TITLE	MSRP	DEVELOPER/PUBLISHER
J9069	Myst (CD)	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Mutant Penguins	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Battlemorph	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Breakout 2000	\$49.99	Atari Corp.
	Max Force	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
J9089	NBA Jam TE	\$69.99	Atari Corp.
J9021	Brett Hull Hockey	\$69.99	Atari Corp.
J9055	Baldies	\$59.99	Atari Corp.
	Primal Rage	\$59.99	Time Warner

Hardware and Peripherals

CAT #	TITLE	MSRP	MANUFACTURER
J8001	Jaguar (no cart)	\$99.99	Atari Corp.
J8904	Composite Cable	\$19.95	
J8901	Controller/Joypad	\$24.95	Atari Corp.
J8905	S-Video Cable	\$19.95	
	CatBox	\$69.95	ICD J8800
	Jaguar CD-ROM	\$149.99	Atari Corp.
J8908	JagLink Interface	\$29.95	Atari Corp.
J8910	Team Tap 4-Player Adapter)	\$29.95	Atari Corp.
J8907	Jaguar ProController	\$29.95	Atari Corp.
J8911	Memory Track	\$29.95	Atari Corp.
J8909	Tempest 2000: The Soundtrack	\$12.99	Atari Corp.

Jaguar Online STR InfoFile Online Users Growl & Purr!

[Editor's note: It's been quiet online except for a number of users discussing their Jaguar Christmas presents found under the tree earlier in the week. Most activity online has seen discussion of these new games that have arrived lately. Since we don't want to get ahead of ourselves by revealing many of the comments and "mini-reviews", we'll wait for the games to find their way to our reviewers, when we'll provide full commentary on these new games. I think Santa forgot to stop at Sunnyvale and pick up our gift list of review games! Either that or he's busy playing with them at the North Pole! Anyway, we'll be checking with both Santa and Atari next week to see what's up... Atari, for the most part, has been on vacation this past week. This would explain the absence of Don Thomas' usual CatNips report as well as other news out of Atari that we would normally have in this section. But, since it is the end of the year, and things pretty quiet anyway, it's expected that things would be slow. Wait 'till next year!]

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

On CompuServe

compiled by
Joe Mirando
73637,2262

Hidi Ho friends and neighbors. I hope your holiday so far has been happy and healthy. May the rest of the season be good to you.

My holiday has been eventful (as all my holidays are). After all of the relatives had been seen, the four (that's right, count 'em... one, two, three, four) Christmas dinners, the exchanging of gifts, and my "special Christmas prayer" which I utter silently each year, I had time to think about the true nature of the season.

Relatives grow old and leave us, the sumptuous meals are easily taken away as fortunes (however meager) disappear, and the gifts which seem to be representations of affection are easily bought and given. So, what I'm left with is my special Christmas Prayer. It's a simple, private giving of thanks that even my wife has never heard me vocalize. It's a short conversation between me and whatever power directs our lives (I'll not impose upon you with my personal beliefs). It is this prayer that made me stop and think about what this season is really about. It's about friends, family, fellowship, and taking stock of the past year. It's been a good one. For that, I'd like to thank all of those who have been a part of this past year. There are many too many to name so, I'll just say thank you and leave it at that.

Well, I'm sure that you have had enough of all of this so let's get on with all the news, hints, tips, and info available every week right here on CompuServe.

From the Atari Computing Forums

First off, let's go back to this "AtariCim" thing. Alberto Sanchez posts:

"Hi you folks! I am absolutely convinced that a decent CIM-like navigator for Atari [will] increase the number of Atari users signing with CIS. I personally can convince more than five people to come with us. Even a ratio of 1:2 will be good news for us Atari enthusiasts, and of course, for CIS. I'm sure it's possible IF somebody makes a decent GEM-CIM.

I offer... \$50 in this moment for such a program. I make a compromise of 1 more user signing on CIS. The only thing needed to get more people is giving them Internet account good prize, and CIS has got a good prize! Who will do it?"

As I have been a bit vocal on this subject, I tell Alberto:

"Christmas is truly a time of miracles! I haven't heard confirmation on CompuServe softening its stance on HMI code, but I do know that there are several _able_ developers interested in porting the protocol to the ST!

We've come a long way from when this thread first began. Back then, CompuServe would not release the code for any machine other than PC/MAC. That gave us no chance whatsoever. Now, at least there is a chance.

I know that the Sysops have tried to convince management since the beginning to make it available for the ST, for which we should be eternally grateful,

but it wasn't until the users started telling FEEDBACK that we were here here and wanted CIM/HMI that this happened. Coincidence?? Perhaps. But I prefer to think that we made a difference."

Steve Ahlstrom tells me:

"I hate to tell you this, but users writing to FEEDBACK had absolutely NO effect in CompuServe's reversal in their HMI policy. What made the difference is that the roadblock, in the personage of a specific CompuServe Vice-President, has left the company. Once that roadblock was gone saner heads prevailed."

I tell Steve:

"There ya go, bursting my bubble... killjoy! <grin>

That may well be the case (I get the feeling that the folks at FEEDBACK can only kick the info "upstairs" where it gets discarded most of the time), but I feel that it's usually a good policy to voice our opinions. At least that way management, or at least FEEDBACK, knows how we feel, what we'd like to see, etc.

>Once that roadblock was gone saner heads prevailed. <

Only time will tell who was right. Most of the time, a case can be made that, since only one road was taken, we don't know what the other road would have provided... Of course, in this case, this is the correct road. Still, every time CIS doesn't do as well as projected, that ex-VP will say to himself "See that, I was right!"

For myself, I don't care if the rest of the management team was visited by three spirits in the night.... as long as we've got at least a shot at remaining on CIS, I'm happy. (probably not satisfied for ever, but happy for the moment <grin>)"

Alberto jumps in and tells me:

"I wonder if the miracle will include free Internet access with unlimited time! ;-D Talking seriously, I was thinking of resigning from CIS and signing with a Spanish server providing a SLIP connection with a reasonable prize. This would mean [that I would] loose contact with all you great folks! But now I will stay. And if that supposed soon incoming GEM-CIM lets us have full Internet access, with FTP & WWW included... I will be the better Compuserve agent in Spain! Me and Atari fan Club (Spain) will campaign for the people signing with CIS!"

Benjamin Eby tells me:

"Well, I guess all that is left now is for one of you developers to make a definite commitment to this project. I know if I were a developer, I would jump at the chance to do this. Not only is there the reason of supporting the Atari computer that we love so much, but I think designing a successful custom interface for Compuserve would look GREAT on a resume. Just a thought. Thank you all for pledging your money towards this. If you take a moment and read some of the postings in the Amiga forum, you would think they were having a Jerry Lewis Telethon, so many of the users have pledged to buy their version of the Compuserve program from the developer. So keep on speaking up, because a developer does deserve enumeration for a project that would be quite demanding of his/her knowledge of the Atari's hardware (not to mention the time factor). And remember DON'T GIVE UP!!! Keep your chins up. (Or as my brother often tells me, "Keep your nose clean, and your

lips won't chap so bad <G>.)"

I reply to Benjamin:

"If I were a developer with the resources to take on a project like this, I think that I'd jump at it. But I am not a developer, and have very feeble programming skills. I know that, without any doubt, I would be unable to take on a project of this type.

As I've said, I know of one or two developers who are looking into the possibility of either incorporating HMI into existing programs or doing a stand-alone version. The problem is that the new policy is so new that most folks are unsure of exactly what restrictions there might be, or exactly what roadblocks might be encountered along the way to completing the project (the technical aspects).

We are far from assured of getting an AtariCim, but we're closer than we were two weeks ago. And yes, it is important to not give up. Regardless of why CIS is changing its mind, making our feelings known in a civil way can't hurt and will probably help.

Remember Gandhi??

Whatever you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it. Whether it makes a difference or not, we should make our opinions known! Gee, can you tell that I write for STReport??"

Michel Vanhamme jumps in and tells me:

"IMHO (In my humble opinion), an AtariNav would be more useful and practical in the short term... I don't really need the fancy pictures and stuff <G>.

And while we are dreaming, may I beg any developer who would take on this task to make it fully GEM-compliant? Oh, and I am willing to pay for this, of course."

I reply to Michel:

"No need for a grin there, as you are absolutely right! I had used AtariCim in a generic sense to mean any HMI-compliant program... Which was wrong and very misleading. I am, as you are, hoping for a "Cim without the CIM". In other words, a navigator. <g>

I think that a navigator is the way to go, at least for me. I've always said that the fancy pictures don't increase the value of the messages I read or the files I download. Of course, new users of CompuServe would probably want the pix, but those of us who've been here for a while realize that it's the data that makes CIS our choice, and not the bells and whistles.

Hmmm... I'm feeling a bit poetic...

Twas the day before Christmas and all through the Forum
We all wanted to stay here, we had us a quorum.
But the man at the top said "It's just too much work.
You'll just have to leave us. You can't even lurk.
It doesn't make sense now, to support the ST,
Amiga, or UNIX, it's the numbers, you see.
Go get a machine that runs Windows, DOS, or Sys Seven.
Then you can join us in digital heaven."
But a man with a beard and a UNIX machine
Told the guy in the boardroom "You're just being mean!
There's no reason at all that we can't get this done

There's lots of us folks that are in this for fun.
 We won't buy a computer, just to stay here online,
 That's just plain silly, ours do everything fine.
 I've been watching you now for many a year,
 And I've given you presents when shouldn't, I fear.
 You've forgotten the rule that makes this place work:
 Each user is special, you pig-headed Jerk!
 I'm putting my foot down! No more presents for you!"
 And then he re-booted, and to the North Pole he flew.
 Well the short-sighted guy, still in shock from the sight,
 Yelled out after the spectre "I still think I'm right!
 I'm out of here now, I've now seen it all!
 A digital Santa in our digital mall!"
 The digital Santa gave a digital wink
 And said to his elves "This is better, I think.
 An online provider should support those who cruise
 This electronic highway, not the machines that they use."
 Then he went to his sleigh and he yelled to the bunch
 "Let's load up and move out, we've no time for lunch!"
 "Get the bags filled with presents" he yelled out with soul
 "All he holiday trimmings.... AND ONE BAG OF COAL!"
 And I heard him exclaim from his cellular modem
 "That surely was close, but I guess that we showed 'em."

Happy Holidays to all, and to all a good night."

My friend Myles Cohen (one of those folks who makes this online service special) tells me:

"That was true-ly beautiful...Sob!"

Benjamin Eby adds:

"I had no idea you were so talented!<G>(look out, Milton!) See ya!"

I lighten up and reply:

"Not Milton, his attempts at humor were lousy. How 'bout Dickens?? (;^{}>

By the way folks, for those who don't know, that bunch of characters at the end is my "online portrait". the "(" is the top of my head, the ";" are my winking eyes, the "^" is my nose, and the ">" are my beard and mustache. Meanwhile, Alberto Sanchez tells me:

"That was really the funniest message I've ever read! Even when I don't completely understand your american english (I studied english-english at HighSchool) I'm laughing through all the lines. Since now, you're my favourite cyberpoet!"

Jon Sanford playfully adds:

"Magnificant Poetry! Perhaps we should petition for an "Arts & Literature" section to put all this culture."

I haven't replied to Jon yet, but this is what I'll reply when I have the time:

"I tried to put it in the literature forum, but it's such a clique! If you're not dead... or at least talented, they don't want to post your stuff! <very big grin!>"

Well folks, that's about it for this week. Until next time please have a happy, healthy and SAFE New Year. The first two of those are largely out of our control, but the last is entirely within your reach. Don't drink and drive, and watch out for the other guy. Tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

STReport CONFIDENTIAL "Rumors Tidbits Predictions Observations Tips"

Sunnyvale, CA. Atari's Sam Tramiel suffers Mild Heart Attack

Our west coast snoop reports that after a two day session a week or so ago, at Stanford Medical Center, Sam Tramiel, Beleaguered CEO of Atari Corp., was released to home in satisfactory condition. According to our snoop, Sam's Dad, Jack was more upset than Sam himself. In any case, snoop sez that there are no residual problems and that Sam's prognosis is as bright as a new sunrise. Hey Sam!! From all of us at STReport FEEL BETTER!! Besides, if anything were to happen to you, who in heaven's name would we have to give a hard time to? All kidding aside, we're all glad to hear you're doing fine. To you especially, we wish a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

Happy New Year To ALL!!

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